

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A print control method of, in an information processing apparatus in which application software and a printer driver are installed, controlling a printing process, comprising

an output step in which the application software outputs one page of data part by part in the same order as the order in which the data is printed on printing paper in a printing direction;

a conversion step in which the printer driver converts the input data into print data without spooling one page of the data and outputs the resultant print data to an image output device; and

a parallel processing step of performing the output step and the conversion step in parallel.

2. A print control method according to claim 1, further comprising a determination step in which when a parallel processing mode is specified by the application software, it is determined whether the printer driver supports the parallel processing mode.

3. A print control method according to claim 2, wherein when the parallel processing mode is specified by

the application software, the determination step is realized by the application software and the printer driver via an extended API.

4. A print control method according to claim 2, wherein the determination step further comprises determining whether the communication link between the information processing apparatus and the image output device is a high speed communication.

5. A print control method according to claim 2, wherein the determination step further comprises determining whether the recording medium on which the resultant print data is outputted is a predetermined medium.

6. A print control method according to claim 1, further comprising a setting step in which, when the parallel processing step is performed, the printer driver disables spooling performed by basic software installed in the information processing apparatus.

7. A print control method according to claim 1, further comprising a notification step in which, when the parallel processing step is performed, the printer driver notifies basic software installed in the information

processing apparatus that the basic software should not perform banding.

8. A print control method according to claim 1, further comprising a positional relationship determination step in which the printer driver detects the positional relationship between data output from the application software and a band output by the image output device,

wherein data divided into bands is output to the image output device in accordance with the positional relationship detected in the positional relationship determination step.

9. A print control method according to claim 8, wherein when the application software outputs one page of data part by part in the same order as the order in which the data is printed on printing paper in a printing direction, the application software divides the one page of data into bands and outputs the data on a band-by-band basis.

10. An information processing apparatus in which application software and a printer driver are installed, comprising

output means used by the application software to output one page of data part by part in the same order as the order in which the data is printed on printing paper in a printing

direction;

conversion means used by the printer driver to convert the input data into print data without spooling one page of data and to output the resultant print data to an image output device; and

parallel processing means for performing the processes by the output means and the conversion means.

11. An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising determination means for, when a parallel processing mode is specified by the application software, determining whether the printer driver supports the parallel processing mode.

12. An information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein when the parallel processing mode is specified by the application software, the determination means is realized by the application software and the printer driver via an extended API.

13. An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising setting means for, when the parallel processing is performed by the parallel processing means, disabling, by using the printer driver, a spooling capability of basic software installed in the information

processing apparatus.

14. An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising notification means for, when the parallel processing is performed by the parallel processing means, notifying, by using the printer driver, basic software installed in the information processing apparatus that the basic software should not perform banding.

15. An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising positional relationship detection means for detecting, by using the printer driver, the positional relationship between data output from the application software and a band output by the image output device,

wherein data divided into bands is output to the image output device in accordance with the positional relationship detected by the positional relationship detection means.

16. An information processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein when the application software outputs one page of data part by part in the same order as the order in which the data is printed on printing paper in a printing direction, the application software divides the one page of data into bands and outputs the data on a band-by-band basis.

17. A printing control program for use in an information processing apparatus in which application software and a printer driver are installed, comprising
an output step in which the application software outputs one page of data part by part in the same order as the order in which the data is printed on printing paper in a printing direction;

a conversion step in which the printer driver converts the input data into print data without spooling one page of the data and outputs the resultant print data to an image output device; and

a parallel processing step of performing the output step and the conversion step in parallel.

18. A printing control program according to claim 17, further comprising a determination step in which when a parallel processing mode is specified by the application software, it is determined whether the printer driver supports the parallel processing mode.

19. A printing control program according to claim 18, wherein when the parallel processing mode is specified by the application software, the determination step is realized by the application software and the printer driver via an

extended API.

20. A printing control program according to claim 17, further comprising a setting step in which, when the parallel processing step is performed, the printer driver disables spooling performed by basic software installed in the information processing apparatus.

21. A printing control program according to claim 17, further comprising a notification step in which, when the parallel processing step is performed, the printer driver notifies basic software installed in the information processing apparatus that the basic software should not perform banding.

22. A printing control program according to claim 17, further comprising a positional relationship determination step in which the printer driver detects the positional relationship between data output from the application software and a band output by the image output device,

wherein data divided into bands is output to the image output device in accordance with the positional relationship detected in the positional relationship determination step.

23. A printing control program according to claim 22,

wherein when the application software outputs one page of data part by part in the same order as the order in which the data is printed on printing paper in a printing direction, the application software divides the one page of data into bands and outputs the data on a band-by-band basis.